



St Michael and All Angels, Ledbury

Minutes of Standing Committee - 11 January 2023

Present: Keith Hilton-Turvey (Rector)
Catherine Beech (Churchwarden)
David Houghton (Churchwarden)
Andrew Beech
Stephen Cheetham

632. The meeting opened with prayer.

Minutes of the meeting on 7 November 2022

633. These were agreed unanimously.

PCC awayday follow up

634. It has already been agreed that future PCC meetings will open with prayer and close promptly at 21.30.

635. Consideration was given to whether the rector should either chair only part of PCC meetings, or possibly none of them. This might make it easier (a) for him to put his views on issues across to the PCC, and (b) for others to feel able to put their views across. It was agreed that, as an experiment, an alternative chair would be found to chair PCC meetings, commencing after the APCM. The PCC would be informed of this at the February meeting. Andrew Beech was considered for the role of PCC chair, but made it clear that an alternative secretary would have to be found were he to take on this role.

Action: David Houghton/Cath Beech

636. Maria Dineen had suggested using established management tools to help the PCC determine its strategy for the church. To this end she was proposing a separate PCC meeting to demonstrate the tools and how they might assist. It was agreed that David Houghton and Cath Beech would discuss a date for this with Maria.

Action: David Houghton/Cath Beech

Small group co-ordinator

637. The urgent need to appoint a replacement for David Kirkham was stressed. The role plays an important part in the overall pastoral support.

Action: Keith Hilton-Turvey

Reordering

638. William Hopkinson is preparing papers for discussion at the February PCC meeting.

Reviews

639. The diocese are clearly in the process of revising their thoughts about Local Mission Development Groups and Mission Action Plans. David Houghton will contact the Archdeacon to establish the current position.

Action: David Houghton

Website

640. Stephen Cheetham suggesting establishing a small group of tech literate people to move the new website to the point where it can replace the existing one, and to oversee that process. It was felt that Benjamin Hilton-Turvey, Will Wake and Maria Dineen should be invited to join this group.

Action: Stephen Cheetham

641. It was recognised that the Communications Working Group had made a number of recommendations as regards information that should be made available on the website. Stephen Cheetham will contact William Hopkinson to establish (a) what the PCC have thus far agreed should appear on the website, and (b) what further recommendations the Communications Working Group are likely to make to the PCC. The PCC decision about links to external sites was noted, and should be complied with.

Action: Stephen Cheetham

Finance

642. Taking into account charitable donations, the deficit is currently forecast at around £13,000. The PCC will be asked to agree charitable donations for 2023. It was agreed that (subject to any to be retained by the ringing band for training in bell ringing) surplus funds in the bells fund should be transferred to the general fund. This will require Charity Commission agreement.

Action: Stephen Cheetham

Investments

643. Because of the current economic situation, the church's investments are being eaten away by inflation. Stephen Cheetham will bring to the PCC a proposal that some be transferred to higher yielding investments.

Action: Stephen Cheetham

Verger fees

644. It was agreed that the verger fee should remain at £60, but that the share currently paid by the church (£30) should in future be added to the wedding or funeral fees. This should apply from when the church office closes.

Action: Stephen Cheetham

Organ

645. Stephen Cheetham will bring a proposal to the March PCC agenda for the purchase of a chamber organ, to replace the existing electronic organ, which doesn't work.

Action: Stephen Cheetham

Church office

646. Cath Beech and David Houghton reported on recent meetings with Sarah Williams. An additional *ex-gratia* payment to Sarah had been suggested, but it was concluded that the present proposals were already generous enough. It was agreed that an email to church members announcing the closure of the office, and the consequences of that, would be circulated on 18 January after the final letter had been sent to Sarah.

Action: Keith Hilton-Turvey

647. It was suggested that a small group (consisting of Keith Hilton-Turvey, David Houghton, Cath Beech, Stephen Cheetham and either Julia Warren or June Smith) should be established to oversee the transition to voluntary operation of the church office functions. David Houghton would establish the group, and devise its terms of reference. Sarah Williams will be encouraged to complete the diocesan returns, which are overdue.

Action: David Houghton

Fabric

648. Work to install the new projector and drop-down screen will take place from 16 -19 January. Installation of the WiFi connection (under the same faculty) will follow. It was acknowledged that an urgent review of the church sound system was required. Charlie Peacock was thanked for his work on the microphones and speakers.

Action: Keith Hilton-Turvey

649. Costs for replacing the flash banding in the roof valleys were still awaited. Andrew Beech will chase Caroe's (again).

Action: Andrew Beech

650. A cheaper estimate than that from Woliters had been received for the Chapter House lighting. Ian Cramp will show the putative contractors the site. Andrew Beech had stressed that it would be helpful for a decision on appointing a contractor be taken at the February PCC meeting.

651. The Ledbury Choral Society had requested that some of the pews at the front of the church be removed to make sufficient space for choristers and orchestra during concerts. Such space could also be useful for LEAF events, especially those with children. Removal

or relocation of pews would require a faculty. Keith Hilton-Turvey will liaise with the choir to establish exactly how much additional space is desired, and will prepare a paper for the March PCC meeting.

Church silver

652. Deferred to the March meeting.

Safeguarding

653. No issues to report. DBS certification is proceeding.

Church cleaning

654. A church Spring clean will take place on 25 March. Volunteers would be sought to undertake regular cleaning.

Action: Cath Beech/David Houghton

Date of next meeting

655. The next meeting will be at 7.30pm on 6 March at The Croft, Woodleigh Road.